

FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 - Issue # 39/40 - December

Dear FRS-Holland Friend!

Welcome in this double December 2003 edition. I really feel uncomfortable knowing only two editions have been published in 2003. The main reason really is lack of time. Already a few years ago I have been considering the idea to quit the FRS Newsletter. Last November I made my final decision: this is the FINAL EDITION. Apart from time pressure, there are a few other reasons strongly contributing to my decision to cease publishing this Newsletter. It seems less and less radio enthusiasts are interested in subscribing. Or should I say it this way: the number of free radio enthusiasts is decreasing? That's not encouraging. Let's be honest: the last few years it was a struggle to collect contributions. And then there is the kind of people who don't pay in time, get two editions for free in the hope they will pay their annual fee and in the end you don't hear a single word anymore. The fact they don't want to renew their membership is their own choice, nothing wrong with that, but if you're not able to send a little Email or a quick note letting me know you want to quit, there's really something wrong with you. At least: that is my opinion. Nevertheless I have no hard feelings. Just disappointment. On the other hand there are dozens of very loyal readers who have read this magazine from the beginning. Some were also long time member of the predecessor FRS Goes DX, a magazine which was first published in the 1982 Summer. It speaks for the entire readership not having moaned about the fact the magazine hasn't been in time twice this year. Much appreciated! Not publishing in time and the (too) many hours which I had to spend producing an edition, are perhaps the most important reasons settling it. One wouldn't believe how much time is spent to put together a single edition.

For me personally this month marks the end of 21½ years of free radio publications. I have always been concentrating on quality and judging the many many positive comments from various readers, I may conclude FRS Goes DX and the FRS Newsletter really filled a need. Let's be clear, positive feelings are prevailing. I must thank you for having been a reader. An extra word for some of you who have been reading FRS publications far over a decade, very few even two decades. Sorry to all of you who perhaps will miss this little publication, even though it wasn't published that often.

What is left is FRS News, a free informative publication fully devoted to FRS-Holland. FRS News appears a few times a year and is sent to those responding following a FRS broadcast. The good news is (perhaps) that in future a brandnew FRS-Holland website will be developed. That's one of my desires. Future editions of FRS News will be published on that future website and there's a good chance that as part of the website (free) radio news will be published as well. If your E-mail still isn't stored in our address book, than it's time to send your Email address. That's the best guarantee to be kept informed. At the moment the website is completed for an upload, you will be informed via Email.

FRS-Holland will continue with SW broadcasts concentrating on the period September-March. Every time we are on air, you can hear the latest news in a new edition of FRS Goes DX. This show will continue, it's been part of FRS-Holland's output since 1980. And that won't change. It's sad to see how few SW free radio stations really care about an informative DX-programme these days. The same applies for Free Radio publications: these are hard to find. Luckily there's the Internet fulfilling an important task. But still I know there are may radio enthusiasts preferring a written magazine. One reason is that you can use editions as a kind of reference.

FRS will remain offering its postal service to other stations. That means P.O.Box 2702 can be used by any station looking for a reliable address. Much to their satisfaction, ROZ, Victoria, Borderhunter, Brigitte & Spaceshuttle are using the 2702 mailbox for over a year.

Well that's it... I hope all of you will have a great Holiday Season (with lots of radio activities). Have a great, bright 2004 and I hope you will support FRS-Holland in future. That would be great. And important as well. Reactions on this column are welcome via our E-mail address or via the good old Herlen mailbox. Thanks to all of you,

73's, Peter V.

FRS Broadcasting Activities

In contrast with the past two years, FRS was not to be heard in September. Instead FRS-Holland carried out a brief 40 min. show on 6211 kHz on Sun morning August 31st that day it was exactly 23 years ago that FRS-Holland began its broadcasting life on the short wave bands: "We're alive! Peter Verbruggen made the listening audience aware of this memorable fact. The broadcast was repeated in the early evening hours (17.00 UTC). Though the broadcasting power was relatively low, the 6211 signal was well received in different parts of Europe. In the evening hours strong reception was reported in London and Berlin well lit up with our slogan "From London to Berlin...this is FRS-Holland playing 4 decades of music."

We certainly regret being so long off the air. Our inactivity can be declared by a number of reasons, most of them being beyond our control. Considerable efforts have been undertaken to bring back the station. At last last we can give you some positive news. FRS-Holland will be back on the airwaves on a good old 3rd Sunday, November 16th. We will be celebrating our 23rd anniversary. We plan to be on 48 metres 6210 (or elsewhere in the 48 mb) I'll be a 4 or 5 hour transmission. Let's hope lots of listeners and readers of the FRS Newsletter will join us that Sunday on 48 metres!

It goes without saying that we are really looking out for your letters to our mailbox in Herlen! Although it seems every year the number of different persons taking the trouble to write in is decreasing, we are still convinced there are a lot of listeners out there.

The festive November 1st is also the start of a brandnew QSL series. A collector's item... It has already been said before but we feel it can be said one more time: despite less mail, FRS-Holland will go on trying to entertain listeners with professional programmes, a number of programme items, quality pop music and a serious DX Programme. Expect more FRS-Holland in December around X-Mas time. All persons whose Email addresses are stored in our comprehensive addressbook will receive a message about the November broadcast a few days ahead.

The above was already written late October. At that moment we intended to publish this edition before the November broadcast. That didn't work. In the mean time it is already more than 4 weeks ago since FRS-Holland celebrated its 23rd birthday. It was a fantastic weekend. Three persons of the FRS crew being Bobby Speed, Mark Jones and Peter Verbruggen spent a weekend on the broadcasting location. Saturday November 15th several tests were carried out after having erected the 48 mb aerial and installing the audio processing and broadcasting equipment. Tests were carried out on 6208 and 6210 kHz. Sun November 16th FRS took off at 06.30 UTC (hoping for Trans Atlantic reception). At 07.45 UTC the Birthday programming was started with non-stop music and at 08.52 UTC "Peace" from Peter (not Verbruggen) marked the start of presented shows. Programming included Mark Jones, Frank Carson and Peter V. Two DX-Shows were aired, one SW section and one with News from around the World (including a comprehensive Radio Jackie feature). And the late Joe for Zee was not forgotten! P.s. closed down after 7 hours on air at just over 13.30 UTC. Until 10.00 UTC propagation was satisfactory, after that unfortunately things got worse. And that is a little bit disappointing knowing how much efforts were put into that November broadcast!

It is crip clear that great changes have been taking place in the SW free radio world, especially in the past few years. It becomes evident when looking at the decreasing number of stations really concentrating on putting out decent programmes. Pas worth while to listen to. Reading out letters, including Free Radio news, including programme items. Stations with a kind of format. The best years are far behind us... And there's not much hope that the good times will return. Even more dramatic is the decline of the number of persons responding to broadcasts. Most likely a great deal of those who were once listening each weekday morning have turned their back to SW. Not interested any more because of lack of quality, perhaps there are new or more interesting hobbies replacing SW DXing, they have less time because of being married and having children. And not to forget the great number of new (commercial) radio stations in several European countries. Do the SW stations still fill a need? Mid November FRS received an Email from a disappointed listener who was pissed off by the quality of the current SW scene. Understandable but on the other hand: when turning your back to the scene, you forget you also "punish" those stations who care about their listeners. And that's a very worrying situation. One of FRS-Holland's jingles says: "SW radio is two-way traffic". When less and less listeners take the trouble to write, it will become one-way traffic. And then it's perhaps too late.

Dedicated programme-makers do need the response from the audience. Otherwise the enthusiasm to produce quality pas will disappear. Is that what the listener really wants? Your personal comments are more than welcome.

FRS-Holland on air in December

More FRS-Holland activity...that's what we really want. Following the November broadcast we have planned our traditional X-Mas broadcast on Sun December 21st. Pas will commence either at 09.00 or 10.00 UTC, close down in 4 hours later. There's a lot of interesting stuff to listen to, so...tune in! We hope to be on 6210 kHz. If not, then we are on an alternative frequency within the 4B mb. Early 2003 more broadcasts will be done. Perhaps not in January but most likely in February. You will be informed in time via E-mail.

News FRS QSL Series

Since January FRS-Holland is offering its listeners a QSL-Series under the name "The FRS Studio Series". The station has carefully prepared a very unique series of different QSL-cards. Each QSL represents a different FRS-Holland recording studio. You can collect this complete FRS Studio Series consisting of 4 full colour photo QSLs by sending in reports for four consecutive trms. This excellent series is a collector's item to any SW Free Radio enthusiast!

E-mail address: <frs.holland@hccnet.nl>

P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands

SW FREE RADIO SCENE

General

[P] First a look at the propagation over the past few months: the August/September period was in general ruled by poor/fair conditions. Slowly but surely things are improving. October 5th was the first Sunday propagation was really fine. As a result over 25 different stations were logged. Not a "world record" but still far more than it used to be in the previous months! The number of Dutch stations on the band remains quite low. No doubt this is a result of the increased activities under the name Etherfirsts coined out by the Dutch Telecom Agency. More info can be read on the front page of edition 37/38.

A serious issue is the use of certain freqs. It seems there is a kind of bottle going on (at least with words) between a few stations. One one hand there's the use of 3927 kHz. Radio Karak II is using this freq since a very long time Saturday evenings. Another Dutch powerhouse, Spaceman has been occupying this freq too. That happened for instance on Sat Oct. 4th. As a result RKI shifted to 3931 kHz. We are unaware of the origin of this problem... as there are plenty of free freqs on 76 metres, it is strange that 3927 is occupied by Spaceman. Ofcourse every station has the right to choose any freq but when knowing a colleague station is always using frequency "x" one should expect that freq is left alone.

A second issue is the fact that according to UK-based WNKI, they were deliberately jammed during a trm on 62B5.

Results from a pop poll organized by Dr. Tim's Pirate News:

- 1.) STAR CLUB RADIO / SCR
- 2.) RADIO DR TIM
- 3.) RADIO LIKEDEELER
- 4.) POWER 41
- 5.) RADIO PERFECT
- 6.) CRAZY WAVE RADIO / CWR
- 7.) FRS-Holland
- 8.) RADIO SPACEMAN
- 9.) SKYLINE RADIOM GERMANY / SRG
- 10.) RADIO ISABELLA
- 10.) LORD RADIO
- 10.) BERMUDA DREIECK
- 10.) LASER HOT HITS / LHH

Comment, despite being very inactive in the past year, FRSH was voted as #7. Certainly not bad.

Address changes for SRS Germany & SRS Sweden

The new address for all radio stations that used the SRS mailbox 1136 in Mersburg is now: SRS Deutschland/ Germany, station name, P.O. Box 101145, 99001 Eisenach in Germany.

Also SRS Sweden has changed its address. It's only a minor change as only the POBox number will alter. The new address reads as follows: Stationsname, c/o SRS, Ostra Porten 49, 442 54 Tierby, Sweden. So...no more 29 but 49. And now the station news...

[P] RADIO ABC from Ireland announced tests for Sun December 14th. The test will take place on 6910 kHz. Alternatively the station could make use of 6940 kHz. E-mail address: <radioabc240@hotmail.com>. [P] RADIO ALBATROS was heard with a weak signal on 6295 Sat. August 30th. This was the station's first appearance since a very long period. Two weeks later, Sat Sept. 13th, better signals were noted on 6300. Add is: P.O. BOX 128, 3330 AC Zundertrecht.

[P] The first October weekend saw the return of popular Dutch station RADIO ALFA LIMA. Following an absence of several months the station returned on 6287 on sat evening Oct. 4th. That night the station was also heard on 15070 kHz. Sun mornings RAL went off or just after 09.00 CEST. According to OP Alfred 150W was used and later on also "a bit more". In the early hours of Sun Nov. 30th, RAL tested to NA on 6265/(15070) kHz. The 48 mb signal was received at the US east coast, 15070 was without success. Add remains [P]. Website: <alfalima.net> and E-mail: <info@alfalima.net>.

[P] RADIO BORDERHUNTER hasn't been that often on air during the past few months. Add is: P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands. E-mail is: <borderhunter@hotmail.com>.

[P] RADIO BRIGITTE was heard during several occasions on various freqs including 6373 kHz, 6540 and 6307. The station is operated by OP Frans who's possibly the oldest station OP in SW free radio land. Address is P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands. E-mail is: <radiofonitower@hotmail.com>.

[P] BRITAIN RADIO INT. was heard with a fair signal on 6235 Sun Oct. 5th. Roger Davis was heard with pop oldies and talked about the new Radio London possibly starting on 1008 kHz. It was a relay via JRR. Another 10.00-12.00 UTC relay was noted on 6234 Sun November 23rd. In a letter to FRSH, BR's Roger Davis says he's glad that BRI has managed to return on the airwaves following a period of absence. BRI came to be on air at least once a month. BRI has been broadcasting to Europe on SW since 1980 and therefore the station is just like FRSH 23 years old. In the beginning BRI was on air each 2nd & 4th Sunday with mostly 4 hours of broadcasting giving the audience a varied selection of free radio news and music not played so much on other stations. Dutch and German shows were included in the programme output. Trms came from different sites such as woodlands and farmlands. 6235 has always been BRI's main channel. In recent years BRI started to co-operate with Irish JRR. Since the late 90s JRR is actively relaying BRI. At the same time the transmission times were reduced due to a shortage of sleepers and staff. Roger Davis decided he needed some time off the air to hopefully

get things together allowing the station to bring the listeners quality pas once again. However, this has proved to be more difficult than expected and that's the main reason that BRI has been silent for quite a while. The station is to be heard each 4th Sun with a maximum of two hours of pas. If you have any ideas as to what you would like to hear on BRI, drop them a line. Jane, BRI's female presenter, is no more on the station. No doubt BRI deserves a warm support from SW enthusiasts as it is not only one of the very few stations surviving the 1980s and 1990s, it also is one of the few stations on SW concentrating on putting out decent pas. Add is P.O. Box 39 in Waterford, Ireland.

[D] RADIO DE CASANOVAS do use a new address taking effect immediately. The new address is P.O. Box 73, 7160 AB Nede in the Netherlands. So forget the old P.O. Box 46 in Nede!! The station is heard from time to time, mostly with a massive signal. One occasion was Sun Sept. 28th when the station was active on 6287, 6305 & 6310.

[F] CRAZY WAVE RADIO [5] was heard on 6275 Sat afternoon Oct. 4th. The 6275 signal was pretty strong in Western Europe. Pas were presented by Cina Ise (station OP) and UK man Andy Walker. Sat Oct. 11th CWR came out a test broadcast on 6955 kHz LSB to the USA. The programme was different from the usual format, it was a kind of talk radio with greetings etc, and mainly a live feed to the USA. CWR is a station concentrating on putting out decent pas on SW. And that means considerable effort on being put in preparing the radio shows. Sat Sept. 13th/14th Sun Sept. 14th saw CWR on 6275. Pas included FRS presenter Mark James. Part of the show was devoted to 'the truth about German DX Camps'. Controversial talk E-mail is <shortwave@gmx.net>.

[D] RADIO DEVALON INT [5] was heard with a strong signal on 6242 Sun Oct. 12th. A mix of pop music and FR news was heard, presented by station OP Steve Young. RDI is broadcasting a few times a year.

[D] RADIO DIAMOND from Germany was heard with a powerful signal on 6245 Sun Sept. 7th. Radio Diamond is an old name in the German SW scene. The station was already active in the 1980s. The trip was in fact the station's 18th birthday celebration! Sat evening Sept. 27th saw Diamond on 3926 with a powerful signal. Station OP is Ron Wood who's the same person running the station in the early days.

[D] Sun Oct. 12th RADIO DOR TIR [5] was noted on various freqs including 6210 & 6297. During the 6210 broadcast, the station was reading out the results of the EAWRC prize contest.

[D] RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND [5], the station which is inactive at the moment, announced that the traditional year New Year's Eve broadcast with the VOTN won't take place this year. Main reason is the lack of response last year. Whether RECH will return remains to be seen, we don't expect a return within the upcoming months.

[D] Sunday evening August 31st EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO made a return via the IRRS on 5775 kHz. The listening audience was informed about the new EMR activities ahead of the broadcast via Email. This time was aired with 20 kW but the overall signal was a little bit disappointing looking at the power. BTW, that was also the meaning of EMR's station OP Barry. Therefore a repeat was aired on 5775 kHz Sat evening Sept. 6th at 19:00 UTC. Sat Sept. 13th EMR was noted on 6306, an old mailbox from the late Roger Tate was aired. No doubt this was a unit putting out an old EMR tape. Sun Sept. 28th EMR was noted on 13840 kHz via the IRRS. Friday night the 24th of October EMR was heard via the IRRS on 5775 kHz at 20:30 to 22:00 UTC with a power of no less than 100 kW. Future activities of EMR, the station will be on air every 3rd weekend on day evenings. Initially the Sunday was planned but these plans have already been altered. Till April EMR will be heard at least once a month and possibly a second time with a repeat. Starting in September 2003, EMR has introduced new jingles and a new programme schedule. For the time being 90 min times are planned which will be presented by EMR's founder Barry Stephens. On the following dates EMR will be possibly be heard with 100 kW via the IRRS: 14th of Nov 2003 - 90 mins 100kW + (20kW repeat). 26th of Dec. 2003 - 90 mins 100kW + (20kW repeat). 16th of Jan 2004 - 90 mins 100kW + (20kW repeat). 27th of Feb 2004 - 90 mins 100kW + (20kW repeat). 19th of March 2004 - 90 mins 100kW + (20kW repeat). 9th of April 2004 - 90 mins 100kW + (20kW repeat). EMR has a brand new very good looking QSL card and an updated info-sheet telling you the story of this 27 year old station. The following add is in use: E.M.R., c/o IRRS - Shortwave, P.O. Box 10980, I-20110 Milano, Italy. E-mail add is <emr@bluewin.ch>.

Latest News *** Latest News *** Latest News *** Latest News *** Lat

EMR has changed relay stations now via Ullbrok in Latvia on 9290 kHz/ 31 metres. All on air times are **Sundays 1400 TO 1600 UTC**. Dates: 30th of November 2003/ 28th of December 2003/ 18th of January 2004. There will be more dates in February-March and April next year in 2004. The first broadcast already has behind us: Sun Nov. 30th EMR was heard with a loud and clear signal on 9290. A much better signal than via the IRRS. ... A new address is in use: EMR c/o Tam Taylor, 32 Briscoe Road, Colliers Wood, London SW 19 2AG in the UK. Phone +44-7743-152908. Hopefully now EMR gets what it deserves: a good response from listeners all over the world. For a ported EMR history see FRS Newsletter #36 (December 2002).

[F] ENJOY RADIO [5] has been heard a number of times in recent months, most of the times with powerful signals. The station was noted on 6295 Sun Sept. 7th, on 6270/ 6280 Sept. 27th and on 6295 Oct. 12th. Sun Dec. 6th Enjoy was on 6295 and when signing off a test was announced on 13865 kHz. We are unsure whether this really took place. Sat Nov. 29th Enjoy radio was heard with a powerful signal on 3935 kHz.

[D] RADIO EUROPE from Italy is back on 7306 USB every Sat & Sunday 07:00-12:00 UTC. E-mail for contacts is: <radioeurope@iol.it>.

[D] Almost forgotten: Scandinavia RADIO FOX 48 (10) was heard on Sun Nov. 16th on 6260 and later that afternoon on 6282. Both freqs gave poor results. Power is approx. 20W.

[D] RADIO FREE AMSTERDAM is a new station which was noted on Sun December 7th on 6267. Signal quality was rather poor.

[D] Early October we were surprised by an E-mail from a new station RADIO FREE BAVARIA. This station was heard on Saturday Oct. 4th on 13860 kHz/LSB. Music which was played was of 'Bayensche' origin. Sat Oct. 11th RFB was noted on 13865 kHz. The same channel was used earlier that morning by Radio Space Shuttle Int. The station announced the Herten maildrop in the shows.

[D] RADIO GALAXY INT, from the Netherlands has been broadcasting a few times during weekends on various 41 mb freqs. Most of these broadcasts have been announced via E-mail. Sat October 11th a 300W test on 6950 kHz was announced at midnight aimed at Northern America. Sun Nov. 9th Galaxy was heard on 7470 kHz with poor signals.

[D] RADIO GERONIMO (10) was heard on 6210 Sun September 21st. The signal was rather poor that morning. E-mail is <radiogeronimo@hotmail.com>.

[D] GOOD MUSIC RADIO (GMR) from the UK has been using Argus rigs, from their site, mainly on the 19mb, but also some 48mb TXs. The reason why the station is 'infamous' for replying, is that on out of date address has been published. GMR uses P.O. Box 53, Bristol, WV14 6YS, UK now. The Calcheter one was run by Garry Lee, who is now on a licensed station. Thank you Bert for the info!

[D] KING SW can be often heard on SW 6205 Sunday mornings but signals are mostly very poor. E-mail address is <kingaw@hotmail.com>.

[D] HENDRIK JAN DE ZENDERMAN can now be reached via E-mail: <hjoopjan@hotmail.com>.

Often the station uses slightly different names. Certainly a bit confusing! The station was testing on 6261 kHz Sun October 5th. Signal quality was good.

[D] RADIO INTERSOUND from the Netherlands was heard testing on 6245 Sat Oct. 11th. The station was putting out 30W. Signal strength was fair. The following day the same QRG was in use. E-mail address is <intersoundradio@hotmail.com>.

[D] RADIO KILOHERTZ popped up with 25W of power on Sun Dec. 7th. Mod was good, so was the signal proving you don't need to use hundreds of watts.

[D] RADIO KORAK INT, was heard with the usual strong signal on 3931 kHz Saturday Oct. 4th. The station was not on the usual 3927 because that freq was in use by Spaceman. September 4th & 5th 3927 was in use. Add is P.O. Box 134 in 3780 BC Voorhuizen in the Netherlands. In the mean time the station can also be reached via E-mail: <radiokorak@planet.nl>.

[D] LASER HOT HITS continues with 24-hour a day 7 days a week shows from Irish soil. Trms take place on 4025 kHz, usually after dark and 6219. We thought the 41 trms had been cancelled but the station has been reported on 7465 kHz, so that proves we were wrong. The station says trms are also taking place on 3935 but as far as we know, this hasn't happened for some time.

☐ **RADIO LOWLAND** is a new Dutch station having no connection with Radio Lowland from the mid 90s. The station was heard on Sat Nov 22nd on 6266, 6267, 6268, 6270 & 6290 kHz. On Sundays the following freqs were in use: 6270, 6290 & 6305 kHz. The 30W is provided satisfactory results in Western Europe. Sun Nov. 30th Lowland was on 6305 providing a nice signal. E-mail address reads as follows: <radio_lowland@hotmail.com>

☐ **RADIO MARABU** announces that "due to technical problems out of our control we have ceased transmissions on 6210 kHz / 6310 kHz at least up to the end of this year. We hope to be back early 2004. Nevertheless our other relay facilities will be still in use. So, stay tuned to Marabu". Sat Oct. 11th Marabu was relayed on 7306 via Radio Europe based in Italy. A fairly strong signal was noted in Western Europe. Radio Marabu announced that on November 23rd the station would be on air on 9290 via a powerful 100 kW Latvian relay. This was already tried some time ago but on another frequency, apparently that broadcast was successful. That broadcast lasted three hours, a special was aired covering the Efrath FR meeting held in September. November 30th Marabu was again heard via 9290 prior to the EMR broadcast. Add is P.O. Box 1166, D-49187 Belm, Germany. E-mail: <marabu@radiomarabu.de>. Website: <www.radiomarabu.de>.

Interested in FRS Goes DX or FRS Newsletter
back issues? Contact us via Email or snailmail !!

☐ Sunday December 7th Dutch **RADIO MORNINGSTAR** returned to the airwaves following a long absence. OP Jack tested a new tx on 6260 with good results. E-mail is: <radioamorningstar@hotmail.nl>.

☐ **RADIO NORDLAND** is a new German station which was first heard Friday November 14th. Freqs were 6288 kHz and 6305 kHz. A mix of pop & oldies were heard. Also on Sat & Sunday of that weekend, the station was on air. Add is [J]. E-Mail: <kurm@tiscinet.de>

☐ **RADIO NORDSEE** [J], from Germany was noted with a fine signal on 6273 Sat Oct. 4th. It was the first appearance of RNI since a long time. The station played offshore records and participated in QSO activities. Add is P.O. Box 2209, D-77612 Offenburg in Germany.

☐ **RADIO OSAKA** is a new station noted with qso's on 6300 Sun Oct. 5th. No further details.

☐ **OZONE RADIO** from the UK can be found on various freqs. Sun Sept. 7th the station was on 6200 but also on 5965 kHz. A test took place on the latter frequency Sun Sept. 14th. Also on the 21st of Sept. 5965 & 6200 were occupied. Oct. 12th & Nov. 9th Ozone used 5924 kHz. Also during other occasions Ozone was heard on the aforementioned freqs. Surprisingly on Sun Dec. 7th Ozone appeared on 7485 kHz putting out a much better signal compared with 6200. One of the shows was the German Service hosted by Bobby Sparks. Add is 85 Hilsdale Rd West, Suffolk, NR35 9H in the UK.

☐ **RADIO PANDORA** [10] from the UK was heard on 6306 kHz Sun Sept. 7th and 28th. On the 7th WRCC was relayed. Oct. 5th Pandora was on 6275, a power of 120W was announced. Also this time WRCC was relayed. A week later on the 12th of Oct. Pandora was on 6273 with a live broadcast. This time the signal was rather weak. Sun Dec. 7th saw Pandora with a fair/good signal on 7475 kHz.

☐ **RADIO PARADISE** is a new German station taking to the air in the weekend of Sat/Sun Nov. 15th & 16th. Trm already started in the early Sat afternoon on 6204.5 kHz with fair/good signal quality. Trms continued on Sat evening & through the night. Early Sun morning Paradise was again noted on 6204.5 kHz continuing till the late Sun afternoon. A number of delays were heard on the station which is certainly an asset to the German Free Radio scene. On Sundays Paradise was also heard on 7290 during part of the broadcast. E-mail is: <paradise.shortwave@radio.nl>. Add is P.O. Box 2209, D-77602 Offenburg, Germany. We are uncertain about Paradise's future plans.

☐ **Dutch RADIO POWERLINER** was heard testing on 6307 and on an out-of-band freq being 6143. The latter 30 min. test took place early Saturday Oct. 4th. Power was only 5W. More tests will be rediated on 6143. Add is P.O. Box 128, 9410 AC Beilen in the Netherlands.

☐ **POWER 41** [10] can be regularly heard on 6240 kHz with mostly fair/strong signals. Modulation quality is not always good [not loud

enough]. In most cases itself when other stations are being relayed who seem to have only poor recording facilities. The station claims to be broadcasting with [almost] 1 kW. Indeed signals are strong. Sun Sept. 7th saw the station for a change on 6270. Sat Sept. 20th Power 41 was on 6263 but was completely overpowered by ROZ. ROZ is not a powerhouse indicating that Power 41 wasn't using high power that day. The station changed to 6245 kHz. Sat Nov. 8th Power 41 tested on 3910 kHz 76 metres. Power was a mere 15W. E-mail add reads as follows: <power11de@aol.com>.

☐ **Scandinavian Q-103** was noted on 6275 Sat August 30th. A nice signal was provided in Western Europe. Sat Sept. 13th 6275 was again in use. Website: <www.geocities.com/radioq103/>. E-mail is: <radioq103house@gmail.nl>.

☐ **ROZ** [1] continues with regular trms on SW 48 metres. Just to mention a few dates: Sat August 30th 6265, Sept. 6th, 20th, 27th & Oct. 3rd the stations was observed on 6265, most of the times with decent signal quality.

☐ **SKYLINE RADIO GERMANY** tested on 6285 Sun August 31st. The bad luck was the station clashed with Dutch powerhouse Spaceman also using 6285. A week later 6285 was again in use, this time without interference. Nevertheless the signal remained rather poor. Sat Sept. 20th/27th the station was on 6275. Don't confuse Skyline Germany with the Dutch Skyline, this one was on 6300 Sept. 20th.

☐ **SUGO EUROPEAN RADIO** were celebrating their 16th anniversary with a special broadcast on Sunday 5th October on 6236 kHz on the 45 metre short-wave band. The station was relayed via JRR, Congrat!

☐ **RADIO SPACEMAN** has been heard a number of occasions on various 48 mtr freqs including 6285. The Dutch powerhouse is already for a long time active as a pirate. Sat night Sept. 13th, Oct. 4th & Sat Dec. 6th Spaceman was heard on 3926. Add is: P.O. Box 73, 7160 AB Nieuwe. E-mail is: <kommandoband@hotmail.com>.

☐ **RADIO SPACESHUTTLE INTERNATIONAL** [1] has been rather active over the past months. Sat August 30th the station was logged on 13790 LSB. Sat Oct. 11th saw Spaceshuttle celebrating its 1st birthday on 11790 and 13865 kHz (both in LSB mode). Also on the 12th RSI was active on 13865 kHz LSB putting out a nice signal into Western Europe. November 27th RSI was heard 15810 kHz / LSB in N.Y. / USA. E-mail add is: <radiospaceshuttle@hotmail.com>.

☐ **TESTSTATION** is the name of a Dutch station criticizing Dutch catlogue powerhouses about their spluttering on 48 metres. This item was already made public by a few station OPs quite recently. Teststation was noted on 6300 & 6306 kHz Sun Oct. 5th. That same day the station was noted on 9290 kHz. Power was said to be 10W, signals on 48 & 31 were excellent. Add is P.O. Box 41, 8080 AA Eiburg in the Netherlands.

☐ Almost a year ago we reported about a new German station calling itself **RADIO THUNDERBIRD** [5]. Saturday Oct. 4th the station was heard via the facilities of CWR. After CWR left the airwaves on 6275, Thunderbird continued on exactly the same channel. It's a one-man operation.

SW ADDRESSES ** SW ADDRESSES ** SW ADDRESSES ** SW ADDRESSES

1 = P.O. Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands

3 = PO-Box 663, 7900 AR Haaren, the Netherlands

4 = PO-Box 130, 92504 Rueil-Cedes, France.

5 = P.O. Box 101145, 99801 Eisenach in Germany

10 = SRS, Ostia Porten 49, 442 54 Ytterby in Sweden

☐ Dutch **TOWER RADIO** also known as Radio Veranoque was heard on 6301 Sat Sept. 13th. Signal strength was excellent. The next day the station was heard on the same GRG spluttering some 40 kHz on both sides of the carrier! It is no secret Tower Radio is using several hundred watts of power. As a result many other stations are badly affected by Tower's signal. Technically it must be no problem to make the signal a lot smaller. The station uses new E-mail add: <radiotower@home.nl> & <radiotower@tiscinet.nl>. Snailmail add is P.O. Box 49, 7475 ZG Markelo in the Netherlands.

☐ Almost forgotten, **TRANS ATLANTIC RADIO** came out of the blue on 6305 Sun Sept. 28th. Unfortunately only a weak signal was heard that morning. Address is unknown, E-mail add is: <transatlantic@planet.nl>.

Sun Nov 23rd TAR was heard on 6304. A 41 mb test took place Sun afternoon December 7th between 15:50-16:20 UTC. Result was good.

[2] RADIO UNDERGROUND is an UK operation which was heard broadcasting on 3925 kHz Sun evening Oct 5th. That afternoon the station was also noted on 6305 (not in //). Signals were poor to fair. Sun evening Nov 9th, Nov 30th & Sun Dec 7th saw Radio Underground with in general poor signals on 3940 kHz.

[2] RADIO VICTORIA (1) was heard during a number of occasions on 48 metres. Sat Nov 1st & Sun the 2nd the station was heard on 6292 using 40W. Signals are always fair to good. Sun Dec 7th Victoria was noted on 6259 announcing only 10W. In addition the station was heard on 6295 (with a better signal).

[2] VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS returned after a few months absence with a test on 6275 Sat Oct 4th. At 12:00 UTC a powerful signal was noted. Sat Nov, 1st VOTN was heard on 6281, 6301 and 6314 kHz. The station was reached via the following E-mail address: <votn@hotmail.com>. No snailmail address is in use although you might try it.

[2] French station RADIO WAVES INT. (4) announced the celebration of their 20th birthday on the airwaves, certainly a milestone! Broadcast was taking place on Sat & Sun of November 2003 each weekend on 41, 48 and 26 mb 11401kHz. A special QSL card in colours with photos was issued, send your reports to: R.W.I., BP 130, 92504 Rueil Cedex in France. <www.rw2003.fr> or <gois/rwi>. E-mail addresses are:

<rw2003@hotmail.com> & <news@magasin.fr>

[2] WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO was heard on 6400 Sun Sept 14th. Sun Dec 7th WMR returned on 6400 with a poor signal on the continent. E-mail: <wmr@rock.com>. Add used to be 14 Stone Row, Londonderry, BT15 1EP, Coleraine, UK. Is this one still in use??

[2] WNKR is to be heard on 6285 most weekends. Despite the low power (20W) the station manages to provide the continent with a nice signal and loud modulation. Pcs are moderated by Andy Walker & Dave Martin. Pcs consist of a wide variety of rock music. In the mean time the station has become 17 years. It was in 1987 that WNKR left his SW airwaves. In the weekend of Sat / Sun August 23rd/24th the birthday was celebrated on 6285. August 31st saw WNKR on 6400 (the in the "good old days" -). The day before 6300 was in use. Finally we mention Sun 9th when WNKR was not on 6285 but 6291. The station suffered from co-channel interference: although Radio Tower was broadcasting 10 kHz above WNKR's frequency, there was so much spillover that even on 6291 the signal was pushed away by the powerful Tower signal. Sad but true. A week later, Sun Nov, 16th, WNKR was noted on 6247, 6267 and 6277kHz. If Sun Nov, 23rd saw WNKR on 6267 and 6285. During December WNKR suffered from site problems. Sun Dec 7th the station was again heard on 6285 kHz and in addition also on 6270 & 6300. E-mail add is <wnkr@rock.com>.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

IRRS

Late Summer IRRS-Shortwave announced a new IPAR (International Public Access Radio) initiative to make more airtime over IRRS at the disposal of small program producers. The new IPAR slot has been opened on 5775 kHz with 20 kW PEP from 2100-2230 CET, and the IRRS is accepting reservations for airtime by email at: <ipar@news.org>. Please check: <www.news.org/IPAR> for details. Effective June 21, 2003 IRRS-Shortwave to Europe is to be heard daily on 5775 kHz from 1900-2130 UTC/2000-2230 CET, besides their operations on Sat & Sun only on 13840 from 0800-1200 UTC (1000-1400 CET). All broadcasts are in parallel with MP3 and experimentally also with OGG-Vorbis streaming at: <mp3.news.org> (streaming available 24 hrs, 7/7).

On Friday October 3rd, the IRRS-Shortwave carried out a two hour test from Milan, Italy, using 100 kW and a omni-directional antenna. The broadcast was intended to test the newly modified transmitters and Corner Controlled Modulation, and was covering Europe, North Africa and the Middle East as a primary target. During the test two different power levels (20 & 100 kW) were being used. The test was in anticipation of regular broadcasts which started October 10th 2003 using 100 kW. IRRS-Shortwave latest frequency and program schedule is

available at: <www.news.org/NEWS-IBA/Schedule>. Lastly, if you want to subscribe to the station's mailing list please check:

<nl-2.news.org/maillist/istef/irrs-listeners>, it's a low traffic list used for frequency changes and general announcements to IRRS's listeners. NEWS-IBA support, P Box 11028, 20110 Milano, Italy. E-mail: <www.news.org>.

Friday Nov 11th at 2100-2130 UTC on 5775 kHz (100 kW) the IRRS was going from Scofield with Radio Six. Radio Six is the newest member who joined the NEWS-IBA Association this year. This test was in anticipation of Radio Six broadcasts later this coming December.

Reception reports are welcomed via <reports@news.org> and in addition by snail-mail to: IRRS-Shortwave, PO Box 10980, 1-20110 Milano, Italy.

Caroline News

Radio Caroline organised an open weekend over the first August weekend. Many thanks to all who visited the Ross Revenge in Rochester over the weekend. So many positive views were expressed and we are grateful for all the hard work carried out by so many people to make it a success. Tours around the Ross Revenge were a great success, some given by presenters from the station, and many more by hard working Volunteers. The Caroline Sales department had many items on sale, and sold a good deal of merchandise over the weekend thanks to the dedicated staff. If you are in the area, the paddle steamer 'Kingwear Castle' is available for river trips that pass the Ross Revenge. These trips are not organised by Radio Caroline, but full details are available from Rochester City Council.

November 28th. Former pop pirate radio station Radio Caroline announced a new fund raising appeal, the purpose of which is to get the station on EPG listing on the Sky digital network, combined with the fund appeal will be a new and special car sticker, which will only be available to those donating to the fund, more information from Radio Caroline sales at Radio Caroline Sales (EPG) 148 Grange Road, Ransgate, Kent, CT11 9PR, England, also do not forget to enclose an SAE to help keep costs down!!

Grant Benson returned to the airwaves of Radio Caroline after an absence of almost 20 years. Grant joined Radio Caroline in 1983 soon after it returned from the MV Ross Revenge. Grant's wireless career began as a land-based pirate in the late 70's on the North London rock station Celebration Radio. During this period he also helped out at the Radio Caroline Radio-shows which toured South East England. In 1980 Grant joined the Israeli offshore station Voice Of Peace under the name Steve Baker. 1981 he joined Radio Nova International which beamed English language programmes to the French Riviera from Italy. After a six month spell with Radio Caroline, Grant returned to Italy to help establish Radio Sovereign International (now Riviera Radio). He then went on to work on national Italian radio and TV including Radio 105 and RTL 102.5 MHz Radio. You could hear Grant present Caroline Party a Saturday 20th September from 23.00-01.00 CET.

Dinky Records has released already several cd boxes with Caroline music, and has plans to something totally different in the near future. There are talks with the Caroline organization to see if there is a way to bring a DVD on the market with video and movie shots, featuring the history of the station during the past four decades. We will see what will happen. One thing is for sure and that is that next year's RSL from Southend-on-Sea will not be realized due to too high towing costs. If there will be another RSL it will be probably on AM and from the ship's current anchorage in Rochester.

Goddess of Democracy

September 2nd Taiwan started to scrap the radio ship Goddess of Democracy which has been in mothballs after it was prevented from beaming messages of freedom and democracy to China in 1990 following the Tiananmen Square massacre. The demolition work, scheduled to take about 70 days, kicked off on Monday Sept 2nd a ceremony at Anping, a harbour in the southern Taiwan county, said Wu Meng-wu, the owner of the 1,200-tonne ship. Wu was ordered to scrap the ship in March after he lost a lawsuit filed by the Anping Harbour authorities, who insisted the ship must be removed to make way for harbour expansion and that Wu must pay at least two million Taiwan dollars (about US\$58,650) in harbour-related fees. Wu agreed to begin dismantling his ship by September 10 but he denied he owes the authorities any fees. He claims that after he bought the ship, the government promised to help him take care of it. Wu purchased the ship for US\$550,000 from the France-based Chinese Shipping Association,

a group set up in Paris by exiled Chinese dissident leader Yan Jiaqi, after pressure from Beijing scuffed the group's bid to broadcast to China in April 1990. He later turned the ship into a floating museum displaying photographs and information about the events in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

Anetz 7 Ship

Since Mon Oct. 20th Anetz 7 has suspended all radio broadcasts. In reading the Hebrew statement, and not the English one (which seems more dramatic), they stated that as a protest against the decision by the Government to introduce a "private radio law" which forbids Israelis to advertise on private radio stations, and the conviction of many of the Anetz 7 staff, the station will be "suspending" radio broadcasts until further notice. Internet broadcasts will continue. Anetz 7's management issued the following announcement: "To the precious and loyal listening public of Anetz 7, may God bless you from Zion. For some 15 years, Anetz 7 has broadcast Torah lessons and love of the People and the Land, with the participation of the leaders of Israel. The broadcasts accompanied and aided in the development of Torah in Israel and settlement of the Land. Following the decision of the Likud Government to prevent advertising on non-licensed stations, and following the court decision, the management of Anetz 7 decided to stop all broadcasts on the radio. Jerusalem court has convicted presenters, management and the owners of the Israeli offshore radio station Anetz 7 of illegal broadcasting. The conviction refers to broadcasts that originated from the radio ship 'Eretz Hahem' within Israeli national waters between 1995-1998, and to sites around Israel where the station had relay stations. The Judge Yoram Naor, convicted Yaakov Katz, and Yoel Tzur of running an illegal radio station, and the operating of broadcasting equipment, without a license. Yaakov Katz was also convicted on two accounts of giving false testimony. On the first account, he swore that the ship was broadcasting outside of Israeli territorial waters, and the other, that the Studios of Bat-El, were for recording purposes only. Also convicted were, Rabbi Zalman Melamed, for starting an illegal radio station, Shalom Melamed, Studio and Programme Manager, for the day to day running of an illegal radio station. Yoel Tzur, for giving technical advice and services, including the fitting and running of broadcasting equipment. Mar was also convicted of running an illegal radio station, and of operating broadcasting equipment without a license. Hagoi Segal, Head of News, was also convicted of broadcasting on an illegal radio station. Several other members of the Anetz 7 staff were also convicted of broadcasting or supplying services to an illegal radio station. Anetz 7's lawyer, Giora Adiri, who represented the station staff, stated that the station acts legally, and will continue to do so. He said a full statement would be given when sentences were to be handed down - on the 18th November. Knesset Member Eitan Kabil, who first brought the complaint to the police, and the false testimony of Yaakov Katz, commented that "Justice has finally been done". He added that he will be turning to the Attorney General, to order the police to close down the station. None of the owners, management, or presenters were willing to comment on the convictions.

According to a report printed on a Hebrew news site, it was stated that the real reason Anetz 7 closed down in such a hurry, was legal advice given to the owners. This advice was as follows: If the station is not closing down as soon as possible, the sentences for all convicted could be very heavy. If the station would be closed down, then the judges could go "easier" on them. After sentencing, it will be decided whether to restrict broadcasts or not. If yes, then there is a possibility that the station will return under new owners, probably American Jews who do not live in Israel. In the mean time it has become clear Anetz 7 will not return to the airwaves. Sunday November 23rd Mike Brand brought the following news: "After receiving an e-mail from Anetz 7 last Friday, the Anetz 7 ship has left its anchorage off the Tel Aviv coast." According to the E-mail, it has gone to be scrapped. The definitive end on Israeli offshore radio... More Mike Brand on November 30th: "After having a conversation this afternoon with Yoel Tzur, one of the managers of Anetz 7, and one of the Anetz 7 crew, availing their sentences at the end of this year for illegal broadcasting, he informed me that the Anetz 7 ship has been broken up. He told me that the deal was brokered through a company in Prague, and the station got a very good deal. I myself informed the station of two people who wanted to use the ship (for legal purposes I), but my inquiry came too late, as the deal had already been finalized. He also went on to tell me, that the station will, in future, operate only within the framework of the law, and are awaiting for the Knesset to introduce

legislation for the station to be legalized. If what Yoel Tzur told me is true, then this is really the end of offshore radio broadcasting from the high seas."

Come-back World Music Radio

One of the pioneers of early European Music Radio, World Music Radio, originating in Holland in the 60s and 70s and broadcasting from Andorra, Milano and Dublin in the 80s and 90s will be back on the air as the first privately owned and officially licensed shortwave station in Denmark. Sng Harnig Nielsen, for many years a well-known DJ'er, will play a leading role in the relaunch of the station. Here is the official press report from the station: "Sng Harnig Nielsen of World Music Radio writes: 'Finally we have received the license to commence broadcasting on two different short wave frequencies from the authorities here in Denmark - and so low power test-transmissions can be expected soon on 5815 and 15810 kHz. News will follow shortly. The power is 400 Watt and the transmitter site is near Karp in Central Jutland, Denmark. 'WMR is planning to commence regular transmissions within a few months, probably late November. We will be on the air 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - with our own very special, unique blend of current chart music, older from the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's as well as popular tunes from countries all over the world. The power on short wave will be 10 kW on each frequency. Our programmes will be available not only on short wave but also via the internet and hopefully also FM, medium wave as well as satellite. At a later stage, when digital receivers become available, we are planning on broadcasting in the DRM mode on a third short wave outlet. Reception reports for our programmes are welcomed and will be acknowledged by a new GSI-card. The address of WMR remains: WMR, PO Box 112, DK-8900 Randers, Denmark.

The new WMR will also be streamed on the internet at <www.wmr.dk> and operating on FM in Denmark with a cheerful and truly world music format with the best in current chart hits and the classics from the past from all continents. WMR will be a truly international station completely independent of all political and religious interests and programmed only with the aim of bringing people together across all frontiers in the common experience of good music and international understanding.

To underline the international nature of the station IDs and hours will be aired in all major languages of the world. The latest news is that WMR hopes to start tests in December on 5818 & 15810 kHz.

New Long Wave Service on 252

Lennie Kaye, Technical Operations Manager (Radio) at Irish public broadcaster RTE, announced late August that the official launch of the longwave service of RTE Radio 1 on 252 kHz was planned for 1 October 2003. The transmitter has been testing a while ago, leading to a spate of E-mails to Media Network and other media sites. RTE acquired the transmitter from its previous commercial owners, TEAMatic, when that station closed on July 31st last year. The longwave service is intended primarily for Irish expatriates living in the UK. At the same time, RTE has expanded its radio services on the Sky Digital platform by adding the stereo version of RTE Radio 1 on the Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) at 910. The existing Radio 1 service on EPG 892 has been re-named "RTE Europe" as it's carried on the Astra 2B satellite which has a wider footprint than the new stereo service on Astra 2D that covers mainly Ireland and the UK. The RTE Europe service carries the same alternative programming at certain times as the mediumwave transmitter in Ireland on 567 kHz. Interesting to mention this time is also "The Radio Archives News", the twice monthly newsletter of the First Generation Radio Archives. In every issue you'll find news of current Archives offers, hints on upcoming projects, and articles spotlighting featured programs and performers. For subscription info go and visit the following address: <www.radioarchives.com/Membership.HTML>

TDRadio

TDRadio had its first broadcast on October 11. Every Saturday night, the best dance, club and trance mixes of the moment brought to you by the biggest DJ's in Europe. Listen from 10 to 11 PM Central European Time (which is 21:00-22:00 UTC) on 7560 kHz. <www.tdradio.com>

TDP Radio on DRM from Flevo: every Saturday from November 29th, the weekly programme of dance music station TDP Radio is to be broadcasted as part of the DRM bouquet at 1100-1200 UTC via Flevo on 9850 kHz, unidirectional for Western Europe. This hour carries RN English on other days. For more information about TDP Radio visit their Web site at <www.tdradio.com>.

Laser Radio/ Radio Seagull

Commencing Saturday 4th October LaserRadio.net is carrying a regular Saturday relay of Radio Seagull on 9290 kHz shortwave. The relay is to be heard between 12.00 and 17.00 CET. LaserRadio.net is a shortwave relay service located in the Republic of Latvia. They operate via a 100,000 watt shortwave transmitter on 9290 kHz. Their relay service is available to any group or individual wishing to have their programme(s) delivered across Europe via shortwave. Test earlier this year on the same frequency, have turned out to be very satisfactory. Numerous reception reports from all around the world proved the impact of this Latvian frequency. The test broadcasts from the Ulbroka transmitting facility resulted in over 100 reception reports being received from across Europe, North America, Brazil, Venezuela and Australia.

The name Radio Seagull is clearly referring to the alternative offshore station transmitting from the MV Mi Amigo in the evening and night hours in 1974 & 1975. A lot of artists could be heard you couldn't hear on any other radio station. Some of the designs were Bob Nockes, Norman Barrington, Brian Anderson, Andy Archer, Dick Palmer, Mike the Post and many more.

Radio Seagull is mainly an internet station and comes from Holland being launched by the people who also did run Radio Caroline in Harlingen. On the website < www.radioseagull.nl > you can later to programs in the style of the old Radio Seagull as we know it from 1974 and 1975 even though right now a minority of the programs is actually presented, very soon the majority will be. A Radio Seagull spokesman: "We have a very skilled crew who have all a long term experience with other stations. Our choice of music is mostly 'rocky' and we tend to not always pick the obvious tracks. There is too much extremely good music that no other radio station ever plays. We do! We are working on a merchandise range as well as an organisation that tries to recruit listeners who want to do something more than listen. They can support the station with a monthly contribution of at least 5 pound sterling or 7.50 euro. We will send the 3 these monthly magazine and they will be entitled to the 'members-prices' if they want to buy merchandise."

In addition to the Internet broadcasts, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Radio Seagull can be heard on 9290 kHz 31 metres every Saturday. Radio Seagull likes to emphasize, the facility to advertise or sponsor the transmissions. Please contact the station for details < info@radioseagull.nl >. Email: < info@radioseagull.nl > Seatmail: PO Box 24 in 8860 AA Harlingen, the Netherlands.

In the mean time the situation has dramatically changed. Late November the news reached us that Radio Seagull has secured one of the last remaining AM licences in the Netherlands. Their bid for 1602 kHz has been accepted and they hope to be on the air by the New Year. The following news came from their website: "Much sooner than expected the definite outcome of the final re-allocation procedure for Dutch frequencies has been published by the Dutch Government. Radio Seagull, having applied for various options, was very positively surprised by being granted an AM frequency. For the next 8 years Radio Seagull holds the license for AM frequency 1602. The Radio Seagull board is very happy to announce that preparations are in full operation to find a transmitter site where the aerial can be erected and the transmitter can be placed. We hope to be on the air next year, if not sooner....."

Radio Seagull must pay a mere € 600 for purchasing the license! Not be compared with the many millions the commercial stations have paid for the nation-wide FM parcels. Hearty congratulations to all at Radio Seagull. The license has affected the SW trans. Sat Nov. 29th saw the final SW 9290 kHz tm, at least for the time being. Main aim is to start up AM 1602 mhz as soon as possible.

In the mean time Laser Radio UK Ltd. has changed the name of its relay service via Latvia 9290 kHz to Euronet Radio, the website of this service is < www.euronetradio.com >. LaserRadio.net is now Euronet Radio! Euronet Radio provides programme distribution and relay facilities in Europe via shortwave, AM and digital satellite for Public, Commercial and Religious broadcasting organisations. So far a small number of stations have been using the powerful SW facilities including E.M.R., Moravia, Radio Seagull and religious World Bible Radio.

Background to Euronet Radio

Euronet first broadcast via the Astra analogue satellite at 19.2 East in the Spring of 1992. Their programmes could be heard on the Sky

Sports audio sub carrier 7.56 Mhz. Programmes included were 'The Wrestling Show' hosted by Ian Mac, a daily half-hour show featuring competitions and information about the World Wrestling Federation 'The Satellite Surgery' hosted by Eric Wiltsher. An information and advice programme for fans of satellite broadcasting 'Laser Rock' A regular show featuring the best Rock available 'Tender Trip' with Iain Johnson, an 'Anceals' programme for fans of offshore radio 'Moving Picture Show' hosted by Bob Randall, a regular weekly look at the latest movies 'The Edge' a weekend Dance music service plus many more informative and entertaining programmes. After a period of inactivity it was decided to re-activate the service in 2002. Following several 'test transmissions' on shortwave during the summer of 2002, the Company launched a regular Sunday broadcast intended for shortwave radio enthusiasts-LaserRadio.net. The service operated with 100,000 watts from a transmitter located at Ulbroka in the Republic of Latvia. In October 2003 the name of the shortwave operation was changed to Euronet Radio. One of the reasons for reverting to the traditional name was to give the station a more defined geographical identity as a Pan-European radio service.

Communicator Update

This report starts early August. Dave Miller reports: 'Last week was a really positive week for us. A former offshore radio engineer has joined the team and will return to "The Communicator" for the first time in 19 years later this week. He will start to overhaul the vessel, restore power fully on board and assist Bert Hendriks with the welding of the windows. This is in preparation for the ship being placed in dry dock as soon as space is available for us in IJmuiden, and our tow to the UK. All our crew have been fantastic throughout the past few months and if you are an offshore radio fan then we would like to direct you to a website which is run by one of our Dutch Colleagues Mr Chris Vesser. Finally a number of people have asked why there has been little visible evidence that anything is happening with the ship which has caused some negative press. When we purchased "The Communicator" in March it was stated by an organisation that she would sink if we attempted to remove the watery, so we assigned a professional organisation who dealt with the problem. It was also claimed she would never float again, so the old girl is floating... Then we saw a press release in Holland saying that the vessel never move from Pampusshoven, well, she was moved to IJmuiden...."

We continue the report early October....

"Peter Koop has worked seven days a week since the end of September to bring the MV Communicator to a satisfactory marine standard. Steel plates have been welded to the windows and oil port holes have been prepared for the journey. Lighting is now fully restored on the ship. The Dutch Authorities will be back on board next week and we are positive they will grant permission for the Communicator to leave the Netherlands. The towing company are on stand by and will bring the ship across the North Sea. A dry dock has been located in the UK. We will initially stop off for work and a repair and then she will reach her first location where we anticipate, she will stay for at least nine months. In this time Martin Gilbert the Chief Engineer will replace and re-fit the engines so she can run under her own steam again, fit studios on board and refurbish the interior. Paul Rusting has kindly offered us original plans of the ship which we greatly appreciate. We will let everyone know as soon as the Dutch Authorities issue a date we can leave IJmuiden.

Wednesday November 26th: the owners of the radio ship, MV Communicator have announced that maintenance work on the ship, currently anchored in the Dutch fishing port of IJmuiden, has been completed. A seaworthiness inspection by a Dutch surveyor has been arranged for Thursday Nov. 27th at 11.00 UTC, and the owners say they are "99.9% sure" that permission will be given to move the ship to a destination in the UK, where they are planning to prepare the vessel for broadcasting. They plan to launch a five 24h radio station, broadcasting a mixture of Hot A.C. and Soft Rock.

Well, the owners were right. The Communicator came through the test and a loadline exemption certificate has been issued. Updates on the situation, and current photos of the ship, can be found at < www.mvcommunicator.com >.

Isle of Man 279 kHz

Sunday December 21st: the FRS-Holland X-Mas Party on 48 metres Short wave

Further delays deprives island of radio voice

Further delays in a legal row over plans for a long wave radio station have been blasted by the man behind the project. Isle of Man International Broadcasting founder Paul Rusling said he is frustrated and the ongoing court battle is 'depriving the island as a whole of a powerful radio voice'. Bride resident Nick Cussons launched a petition of defence against the Communications Commission and IMB arguing the long wave licence should not have been issued. Earlier this year he was given the go-ahead to proceed with his petition despite objections from IMB and the commission. It had been hoped the case would be heard before next month, but Mr Rusling said his company has been informed a request for an adjournment by Mr. Cussons has been granted. A date for the hearing is yet to be set. That means plans for the station - with offices in Ramsey and a transmitter in the sea off Ramsey - remain on hold. Mr Rusling said: 'Eighteen months have been lost as a result of this petition costing not only our shareholders anxiety and delays, but also depriving the island as a whole of a powerful radio voice which could be useful in boosting its exports and raising its profile. We are, however, very determined and this extra delay will not deter us from pressing on. We have now had thousands of messages of support and expressions of goodwill,' he added. 'The project has become much more than just a commercial project or yet another radio station, it has become a torch for many who believe in widening the choice of programme supplier and new, innovative broadcasting techniques.' It also offers a unique opportunity for the Isle of Man. Everything else is ready to run and we are determined to launch the station at the earliest opportunity.' Website: < www.isomanradio.com/ >.

Their daytime transmitter power is expected to be 500 kW reducing to about 100 kW at night to reduce any possible GRM to about 279 kHz. He also informed me that they hope to bring transmissions next summer and will be looking for DX reports when it begins.

Radio Essex Reunion

The Vine Public House in Highgate Road, London, was the venue for this year's Radio Essex reunion on the afternoon of Wednesday 8th October. It was indeed back in October 1965 when the offshore Radio Essex, broadcasting from a former naval fort, called Knock John, in the Thames Estuary commenced test transmissions on 227m (1349kHz) with an old RCA 1kW transmitter. Radio Essex was eventually prosecuted for illegal broadcasting by the Post Office who regulated the airwaves in those days. Essex changed its name to BBMS (Britain's Better Music Station) but was forced to close in December the following year. Radio Essex's main claim to fame, if any fame really existed, was that it was the first British radio station to broadcast 24 hours a day. These days very few stations' close for the night, but most use modem forms of computerised automation, a system that was not available back in 1966 so everything had to be played using a live presenter playing vinyl records. Persons present this year were Dick Palmer, who served faithfully as Fort captain, for the entire year or so the station was on air. Roger Scott (not to be confused with another presenter with this same name who was an Capital Radio) real name (Greg Bonce) Guy Hamilton (Gerry Zinder), Mark West (also known as Mark Wesley on RNI and Luxembourg), Tony Mandell, Martin Kaye, (Andy Coddier), Chris Stewart/John Aston (John Harty) Radio Engineer Dick Dickson, previously of Radio City and radio media correspondent Bob LeROI, also as Radio City. The event involved a lunchtime that lasted well into the afternoon, I left at 5pm but the rounds of commemorative drinks, so I am told, lasted well into the early hours. Clearly some wanted to celebrate the 24 hour format for all it was worth! A number of digital photographs were taken of the former Radio Essex presenters and engineers plus their partners which will shortly form part of an offshore radio feature on Bob LeROI's website. He also creates audio and video productions on a variety of issues involving radio broadcasting. < www.bobleroi.co.uk >

Radio Essex was probably the least significant of the 1960's offshore stations, yet appears to be the only one that still has a regular reunion. Not only that, even including the few that were unable to attend, it appears all of us are still alive clearly it must be due to the consumption of all those obscure unlabeled tins of corned beef and watery mashed potatoes.

Cassey Kasem Signs Long-Term Deal

Wednesday December 10th Cassey Kasem Signs Long-Term Deal with Premiere Radio Networks. Cassey Kasem, host of the most familiar music chart countdown programmes on the air, has signed a new long-term

contract with his current syndicator, Premiere Radio Networks. Each weekend, Kasem will host American Top 20, which will continue featuring his signature long-distance dedications and stories behind the songs. He will host two versions of the programme for Hot Adult Contemporary and Adult Contemporary stations across the US. Kasem commented, 'I've been working with Premiere over the last several months to find a way for me to be with my audience in every market in the nation without having to compete with myself by being on both Contemporary FM Radio stations with American Top 40 and Adult Contemporary stations with American Top 20. With this new contract, I'll be counting down the hits for my listeners into the next decade.' Kasem is the youngest member ever inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters' Radio Hall of Fame. He also has his own star on Hollywood Boulevard's Walk of Fame. In 1997, Billboard Magazine presented him with its first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award.

Where are they now?

Leen Vingelst sent in the next report. Dutch radio entrepreneur Nico Volker will be quitting the radio scene and will concentrate on his restaurant in Lanzarote, one of the Canary Islands. Nico started his radio career at M4 Amigo in 1977, running the radio show as Nico van der Stee and presenting programmes on tape as Piet de Preter. In 1984 Nico came up with backers and initiated Radio Manique but was put to the sidelines after an argument with Fred Bolland. Later he returned again in charge of radio 558 and B19. At the same time he was involved in the Nannal project. During the 90s Nico started Holland FM from the former Laser ship the MV Communicator from a harbour in the Westmeer. First on cable and since 1994 an AM. Although Holland FM was quickly bought by Hitradio Veronica, Nico was not out of a job. He was the driving force behind big local radio stations in The Hague and Rotterdam (Stadradio) and he was the instigator of City FM. The list of all his involvements and projects is far too long to mention. Over a period of 25 years Nico has contributed a lot to the radio world. With the almost completed sale of his last two radio stations, an era will come to an end. Nico will now spend all his time and energy on his restaurant in Lanzarote and property development in Ecuador. His restaurant is in the same park as Robbie Dale's holiday apartment.

< www.sailorandtimepark.com/html/your_hosts.html >

Good news this time from Fred Bolland who we know from Caroline in the late seventies, eighties, but also from Radio Manique and other projects. Fred was for a long time in hospital and lucky enough he starts to recover a bit and we do hope he recovers as much as possible so he can enjoy much more years with his wife Gerda and his kids. He did send us a 'thank you' e-mail for all those people who did send in an e-mail to wish him all the best for the future. Fred: 'I can't say how important those e-mails were in those very difficult moments we had. I always thought that nobody knows you when you're down but it was fantastic. I had to write this to all those who sent in best wishes. It goes better day by day but I've to go to many weeks and months before I'm the old Fred Bolland'. Thanks once again.'

December 9th saw the program on the KRO on Radio 2 during the evening, called 'Sentimental Theatre' filled with memories to the gold old days of the M4 Amigo in the seventies. A radio station which was run by deejays from Holland and Belgium and owned by Sylvain Tack. On Radio 2 in Holland Marc Jacobs was invited to tell about his memories from those days. Marc was the most popular deejay from the station and nowadays still works in radio with Radio TV Noord in Groningen. A pity that the line between the studio were Marc Jacobs was sitting and that one of Radio 2 was too bad whereby it was very difficult for Marc to hear the questions from the presenter from Radio 2.

International News in Brief

*** Wednesday Oct. 1st a new 200 kW Nautil transmitter was put into operation at the Orfordness transmitting site. The new tx is being used for the 1296 DRM transmissions. The Canadian tx can be used for both analogue and digital purposes. Listeners in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and parts of France having the right receiver at their disposal, can be listening to a mix of normal analogue and special digital DRM transmissions. *** Broadcast 531 tests? Quite some harassment was caused by a secret on a frequency close to Belgiums BRT 540 kHz AM on Saturday October 4th & 11th. During these Saturday nights between 00.00-01.00 CET a station naming itself Colourful Radio was heard in the UK with a very strong signal. Non-stop early 1960s music was being played interspersed with Radio Luxembourg jingles. One of the slogans of the former English

Luxemburg 208 service was "Colourful Radio" *** RTL 1440 kHz temporarily on full power: recently RTL has upped power of its 1440 kHz outlet. From Mon-Fri the German Breakfast Show is radiated with no less than 1200 kW. After 10 o'clock power is reduced to a normal 300 kW. Religious programming and the Radio China International relay are aired on full power *** Plans to build a new longwave station in Norway have suffered a setback. This was announced early September, Svein Mortensen of Northern Star International Broadcasters < www.northernstar.no > tells that Northern Star have just had a message from transmitter operator Northing. The message says that in view of general environmental considerations, and the decline of AM in Norway, including the bleak prospects for the Sveio shortwave site, Northing does not consider it possible to make further plans for AM 216 from Sveio. However, Mr Mortensen says the project will continue as Northing is prepared to operate a longwave service from a different location if one can be found *** Mid December the Portland radiolower owned by Portland Media collapsed! Two stations: WMGX and WYNN had their aerials installed on the tower. Both stations are part of the Portland Media Group. It is indeed a miracle that no one got injured. WMGX was off air for one day, WYNN could continue from on low power. Why the tower collapsed still is under investigation *** Recently Pan European Radio was conducting a series of tests on 1179 kHz AM during weekends. An address in Beverly Hills, California was read out. A mix of oldies & classic rock tracks was being played. The test was abruptly ended *** Jonathan Marks leaves RNV: Creative Director Jonathan Marks is leaving Radio Netherlands to start his own broadcast consultancy, Creative Media Consultants. This news was recently announced by the Senior Management at Radio Netherlands, Hilversum, The Netherlands. A goodbye reception in his honour in the main hall at the RNV broadcast centre in Hilversum, was held on Tuesday October 28th 2003. During his 23 years with Radio Netherlands, Jonathan has made thousands of friends across the globe, many through his work as host of the long running famous radio programme "Media Network". We at FRS wish Jonathan all the luck he needs and deserves in his new challenging job *** Studio DX, the Italian DX programme on the air over AWR, is to be heard every Sunday at 10.00 UTC on the new frequency of 11730 kHz. Studio X will be also on the air via the facilities of Radio Studio X on 1584 kHz AM STEREO every Sunday at 11.00 UTC and each Wednesday at 00.00 UTC. Updated news at < www.studiobroadcast.it > or < www.studiobroadcast.it >. Frequently prizes are covered within the show. E-mail address is as follows: < studiobroadcast@europa.com >

Phantom FM To Return To The Airwaves
Phantom FM, the popular Dublin based modern rock station made a return to the FM waveband this October. The station has secured a Temporary Radio Licence from the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (BCCI) allowing it to broadcast for 14 successive weekends over a three month period. The return of Phantom FM is welcomed by thousands of musically disenfranchised young Dubliners in a city where a licensed specialist modern rock service has so far been lacking. Phantom FM will offer a "modern rock" programme schedule consisting of Irish and international indie/alternative rock artists with a heavy emphasis on emerging talent from the Dublin scene that are under represented on the play lists of existing commercial stations. Live interviews and in studio sessions will be a regular feature of programming that will be presented by enthusiastic and informed presenters. A measure of the calibre of the new broadcasting talent nurtured by Phantom FM is the fact that key music programmes on Today FM, 2FM and FM104 are all presented by ex-Phantom DJs. The station also plans to host number of live concerts in Dublin venues that will be broadcast live along with a series of music workshops for new bands and artists. Phantom FM will broadcast on 97.3 MHz FM across Dublin city every weekend commencing on October 18th night through until the final broadcast in the series on January 18th, 2004. Programming is running each weekend from midnight Friday until midnight Sunday. Outside of these hours the station will continue to transmit via the web at < www.phantomfm.com >. The station will be funded by revenues generated by programme sponsorship.

Special Feature: Veronica back on Dutch airwaves

We already reported in July that Radio Veronica would return to the Dutch airwaves. Friday June 27th it was announced that Dutch

commercial broadcaster Veronica agreed to merge all its activities with SBS Broadcasting bv, which runs the commercial TV channels SBS 6, NET 5 and V8. This has resulted in a return on Dutch TV. At the same time, Veronica reached an agreement with Sky Radio over the re-branding of the Gouwe Ouwe Zender Radio 103, the oldest station, as Radio Veronica 103 FM. The Sky Radio Group won two licences in June: one for the easy-listening non-stop station Sky Radio (the most listened to station in the Netherlands) and one for the Gouwe Ouwe Zender. Originally Radio 10 FM was approached to start a partnership with Sky Radio enabling Radio 10 to make use of the FM package won by the Gouwe Ouwe Zender; Radio 10 FM was one of the big losers of the Dutch frequency auction. For a few days Radio 10 was heard on the new FM frequency but early June Sky pulled the plug out due to disagreements with the owners of Radio 10 FM, Talpa Radio Int.

In August the Gouwe Ouwe Zender started broadcasting proms announcing the start of the new Radio Veronica on August 31st. Of course this is a very special date as it was August 31st 1974 that Veronica was forced to give up AM broadcasts on 538 metres medium wave. Soon after the deal with Sky Radio, names of Veronica jocks were announced: Ferry Maat, Bart van Leeuwen, Rob van Someren, Luc van Raaij, Ron Bieschop, Kas van Iersel & Peter Teelamp. Silent detail: the opening took place on the former Veronica vessel Norderney. Following a lot of confusion, the 50m long ship was towed to Mornickendam, Northern Holland. As the new Veronica wanted a lot of publicity, they contacted the current owner of the Norderney. Since a few years the ship is in the harbour of Antwerp, Belgium. Around August 25th a contract was signed in which the new Radio Veronica could use the ship for a limited period. The plan was to tow the ship partly through canals and partly on the North sea, entering Holland in the harbour of IJmuiden, were still the Communicator is berthed. After some problems with the harbour authorities of IJmuiden the ship could finally leave in the early hours of the 28th. During the low many offshore radio trends from the past tried to make photos and videos. The tow finally went to Mornickendam, a small fisher harbour at the IJsselmeer.

Back to the new start of Veronica: engineers of the NOB built a complete studio in the pub part of the ship and August 31st the opening program came live from the ship. The new station can be heard in the Netherlands on FM and has - as already mentioned - several former offshore denizens. The official opening was done by Sky director Ton Lankhouwer and former Veronica offshore managing director "Under" Bull Verweij. In the mean time Veronica has gained a 3.2% marketplace in less than 3 months. This is a great achievement. Here are the results in October:

1. Sky Radio 101 FM	11,9 %
2. Radio 538	10,8 %
3. Radio 2	10,1 %
4. Radio 1	9,2 %
5. Radio 3 FM	8,5 %
6. Noordzee FM	5,9 %
7. Radio 10 FM	4,7 %
8. Radio Veronica	3,2 %

Sunday December 21st the annual X-Mas broadcast on 48 metres Tune in to FRS-Holland, just a bit different...

INTERNET

Jos van Vliet has worked on the Laissez Faire in the states. Also he worked for the offshore radio station Veronica and did a lot of other work. Go and search for his own web log. < www.vanvliet.nl >. December 1st 1986 Laser Hot Hits came on the air. A short lived station from international waters. However a lot happened and the people behind Offshore Echoes have made some special pages on the station on their internet site: < www.offshoreechoes.com >.

On September 11th it was 25 years ago that the MV Angir from Radio Delmare ran into severe problems. Fans of the station still remember the SOS calls from the radio ship, which was run by only youngsters. In memory of this event I like you to go to the site of Theo van Holstema: < www.geocities.com/theovanholstema >. When you find the site just push on the radio ship and you will find the Delmare mariners.

< www.radiomold.nl > is the internet address of a on line station which is run by former Radio Monique deejay Ron van der Plas. Specially for the Dutch and Flemish readers it will be nice to listen as Ron is playing a lot of Dutch productions. Another interesting station to listen to is the wonderful sound of Prime Time Radio, including presenter David Gilbee who once worked on Radio 390 as well as Radio 355 in the sixties. < www.primetime-radio.com >

MADE IN HOLLAND

Dutch mediumwave test Friday December 12th
Early December Dutch media sources reported that a test transmission was planned for Friday evening, December 12th 2003, on mediumwave 828 kHz from the transmitter at the Rotterdam - Heemskerk transmitting site. This is one of the six mediumwave frequencies licensed to Quality Radio b.v. and was formerly used by Arrow Classic Rock, now using 675 kHz. Well, the test was conducted during daytime under the name Radio Paradise. Mainly (soft) pop music was being played. Saturday morning December 13th tests continued with strong signals. The following address has just been given for reception reports: Quality Radio, P.O. Box 11122, 3505 BC Utrecht in The Netherlands. Judging the signal strength in parts of The Netherlands and within the UK, the test was running on full power (25 kW). No more details are available. Radio 10 & Arrow Classic Rock continue on AM.

Radio 10 & Arrow Classic Rock have received permission from Dutch authorities to continue AM broadcasting till December 1st 2003. The transitional period would end September 1st. Because the distribution of commercial FM radio frequencies has not been finalised - some FM and AM packages have still to be distributed - the Ministry decide to do both stations a favour. December 1st it must be decided which stations may use the freqs which haven't been allocated yet. Since June 1st the Dutch radio landscape has undergone major changes due to the introduction of the so-called Zero Base plan (see FRS NWL #37/38). There is a possibility that the current unused FM package (the only FM package left) - meant for a classical and/or jazz station - will become unoccupied. Unoccupied means a station may put out any format. No regulations whatsoever in contrast with those stations using a closed package having to meet certain requirements (specified in the business plans approved by the authorities).

During the past weeks there were already some rumours going about the fact that in The Hague, the government town on Holland, certain people were dissatisfied with the fact an English Company will be using the 1008 kHz in the future. On July 29th Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs Lousens-Jan Brinkhorst told the press he wants the public news and information station Radio 1 restored to national coverage on medium wave. This due to the fact the new FM frequencies on Radio 1 gives a bad reception in many parts of the Netherlands. Radio 1 lost its medium wave channel of 1008 kHz to the commercial broadcaster Radior, which has already conducted test transmissions for a proposed service to the UK. If Radior fails to start regular transmissions by 1 June 2004, it will forfeit its licence for 1008 kHz, which would revert to the public sector as Radior was the only commercial applicant. Brinkhorst spoke on the idea getting back the 1008 kHz in the program of Radio Netherlands.

Latest news: it has been decided that Dutch commercial broadcaster Arrow Classic Rock may continue on mediumwave 675 kHz. Arrow was one of the unsuccessful applicants for a terrestrial FM licence earlier this year, and has been using 675 kHz on an interim basis. The frequency was actually awarded to a station called Music Country. But Music Country is no more. Also Radio 10 Gold is continuing to use the 1395 AM outlet.

Arrow Classic Jazz FM has been issued a license to start commercial radio broadcasts. It was the only FM package (the so called A8 parcel) left meant for classical and/or jazz music. The license will last for an eight year period and Arrow has paid € 8.000.111,-. Arrow is willing to put out a mix of jazz and classical music emphasizing on Jazz, 97% of Arrow Classic Jazz FM's output must consist of Jazz and/or Classical music. There were 14 applicants willing to purchase the A8 parcel. AM licenses were issued to Hot Radio in Utrecht (1332 kHz), Radio Seagull (Leeuwarden 1602 kHz) & Hoogskool Radio (De Hagen/Tilburg 1485 kHz).

More details of Arrow's new jazz station

In an interview today with the Dutch newspaper de Groot in Eindhoven, Arrow boss Ad Ossendrijver reveals more details of his new jazz and classical music station that was awarded a licence earlier this month. Ossendrijver says a final on-air name has not yet been decided. The working title is Arrow Classics Jazz, but with the bulk of the antenna being devoted to jazz music, the station may be called Arrow Jazz FM. A decision will have to be made soon, as plans are to launch the station before the end of December. Ossendrijver believes that the people to whom the station's format will appeal are also likely to be interested in news, especially financial news, so the station will provide that the station will employ about eight people. A new studio is being constructed in The Hague alongside the one that Arrow Classic Rock started using about two months ago. The FM transmissions will cover approximately two thirds of the country. Ossendrijver believes that the station will break even within the eight year licence period. He said the company is healthy, and the decision to bid for the licence was not an emotional reaction after missing out on a terrestrial FM licence for Arrow Classic Rock.

Talpa Radio International/ Radio 10 Gold

A spokesman for Dutch broadcaster Talpa Radio International has firmly denied recent rumours that its oldest station Radio 10 FM will replace its other station, Noordzee FM, on the terrestrial FM band. The rumours started after the latest listening figures showed a drop in audience share for Noordzee FM, but an increase for Radio 10 FM which is having to make do with a temporary mediumwave facility after failing to secure a new eight year licence. Despite the latest drop, Noordzee FM's current market share of 5.9% compares to just 4% in January. Radio 10 FM currently has a share of 4.7%.

Talpa International, the company owned by John de Mol jr and owner of radio stations in Holland and Denmark, decided to bid for the last FM frequency which was auctioned in December in Holland. Together with the organisation behind the world wide famous Jazz Festival they wanted to start a radio station with a jazz format, a format which is not used at all in Holland. They think there is a need for such a station.

There's more news from Radio 10 FM: Radio 10 FM has changed its name back to Radio 10 Gold. When the Oldies format was introduced back in 1990, Radio 10 became Radio 10 Gold. November 1999 Radio 10 Gold became Radio 10 FM. Taking effect December 1st it once again Radio 10 Gold. Enk de Zwart, director of Talpa Radio International says that the reason for the change of name is quite simple: "The name Radio 10 Gold has a certain magic and suits better to an oldies station. Besides: everybody knows the name from the past with a positive association: the greatest hits, the most prizes."

Radio 10 Gold is to be heard on cable nationwide. In addition the station can be heard on 1395 AM. December 1st it would be decided whether AM broadcasts could be continued. The outcome is very positive for Radio 10 Gold: the station is allowed to keep its 1395 outlet.

A polluted history

Radio 10 Gold has undergone a great number of changes in the course of the years. A stormy history. 1986 Jeroen Saar started preparations to start the commercial radio station Radio 10, April 4th 1988 the first presented shows commenced. Well-known deejays is those days: Ferry Maat, Adam Curry, Daniel Dekker en Rob van Someren. 1990 Radio 10 changes the MOR format to an oldies format. Radio 10 becomes Radio 10 Gold. The same year Radio 10 Gold starts tests of a classical station. The number of reactions is overwhelming and shortly after that Concert Radio is launched. Concert Radio became the first commercial classical radio station in The Netherlands. 1991 Power AM is being launched aimed at the young people age group. 1992... A memorable year. The start of the first legal terrestrial FM of Commercial stations in The Netherlands. Radio 10 Gold may use a number of temporary terrestrial FM freqs and can be received in the Northern part of the country. December 1992 The Dutch Ministry of WVC permit the stations Radio 10 Gold, Power FM en Concert Radio to make use of cable networks.

1993... Radio 10 Gold changes the format of Power FM. The station is renamed into Love Radio. Radio 10 Gold develops into the most listened to commercial radio station in The Netherlands. 1994... Am 675 kHz is allocated to Radio 10 Gold. The Radio 10 Gold Magazine is distributed in a 120,000 circulation. 1998... Taking effect January 1st Radio 10 Gold starts after 10 years official FM broadcasts. To emphasize a younger image, Radio 10 Gold changes in november

1999 its name into Radio 10 FM 2003. In February Talpa Radio Ltd. buys Radio 10 FM. Besides Radio 10, also Noordzee FM is owned by Talpa Radio. As from December 1st Radio 10 FM is replaced by the name Radio 10 Gold.

Radio London from the REM island?

Ruud Poore, who holds seven mediumwave licences in the Netherlands, has revealed that he wants to purchase REM Island, the artificial platform in the North Sea that is no longer required for marine and meteorological surveys. Speaking on the Dutch media programme *Antenne 2*, Poore said that a couple of mediumwave transmitters could be operated from REM Island, one of which would almost certainly be used for the English-language station Radio London, which has so far made only a few test transmissions on 1008 kHz from the Flevo transmitter site. Poore believes that the station could operate with lower power from REM Island, thus substantially reducing running costs. For Radion Media, the company behind Radio London, this would have the advantage of being a true offshore station, albeit within Dutch territorial waters. Ray Anderson of Radion Media, owner of Radio London made the following comment: "Just to let you know that we have now raised our funding and we plan to be on the air by the end of the year. The opportunity to use The REM Island will give us greater flexibility with our service providers and possibly an opportunity to increase our signal to the UK but a full study of the site will need to be made first and fully evaluated. Our priority is to get the service on the air and work is progressing very well now." Some time before the REM island came up, Ray Anderson said "let me confirm that our team are committed to re-launching Radio London by October/November 2003. A tremendous amount of progress has been made since we last spoke and our team are both excited and determined in bringing this great station back on the air." In the mean time it is December and no tests whatsoever have been noticed.

REM island to be dismantled

A piece of Dutch offshore broadcasting history will soon cease to exist. The plans to capture the REM Island are a direct result of the announcement by the Dutch The Department of Public Works, a governmental body, to dismantle the island early 2004. They have installed sophisticated measuring equipment on the artificial island, situated 9 kilometres off the Dutch coast off Unwiden. The platform is almost 40 years old and the maintenance costs are very high. The island was constructed in 1964 at a cost of 9 million guilders by a team of broadcasting entrepreneurs, who used it to broadcast the first commercial radio and television programmes to the Netherlands under the name Radio Noordzee and TV Noordzee. It was a watertight solution to escape inspection/control from Dutch authorities. But...the dream burst like a bubble only a few months after the start. The experiment lasted for just over 4 months, from mid-August to mid-December 1964, before being closed by the authorities who entered the platform. However the organisation, TROS, survived and became one of the main public broadcasting organisations in the Netherlands. The REM island was deserted for the next 10 years. It was 1974 when the Dutch Department of Public Works purchased the platform for carrying out marine investigations and measurements. However, it's now surplus to requirements and a spokesman said that it has come to the end of its life and will shortly be dismantled. A history of REM Island - in Dutch, but with photos and audio clips - is available on the TROS Web site: < www.tros.nl >.

Radio Day celebrates 25th anniversary

Saturday October 25th the famous annual Dutch Radio Day was organised. The day started with Mike Hayes & Paul Rusling looking back to their careers on Radio 270. Then it was Setze Bruiwer talking about the Dutch Caroline organisation & Radio Seagull. Ferry Eden presented a CD The History of Radio Mi Amigo. De CD was produced almost 25 years ago never to be sold to the public. The CD covers the history of the Flemish offshore station including many anecdotes. Narrated by Ferry Eden who used to work on Mi Amigo, the CD gives a nice picture of the station's colourful history. Bob Nookes, Paul Rusling and Peter van Dijken told about their memories about the Mi Amigo in 1973. Some 300 radio enthusiasts attended the meeting in Amsterdam. Among the visitors were Graham Gill, Hans Hogendoorn, Ruud Doets, Eda Peters, Ramon Damstra, Wim van Egmond, Walter Simons, Sebastiaan Koek, Leendert Vingerling, Ad Roberts, Ely van Amstel, Jan Veldkamp, Arne Swits & Nigel Harris. At 16.00 hours the day came to an end and Hans Koek announced this was the final time (the 25th) he

organised the Radio Day. Thanks Hans for all the hard work...!! SMC in the person of Rob Othoff will decide in which form the Radio Day will take place in 2004. Date and location are already announced. Saturday October 2nd in Amsterdam.

Radio 192: no co-operation with Radio London

Radio 192's programme director Michael Bakker denies rumours about making an approach to UK-based Radio London. Michael Bakker denied any intention to co-operate with Ray Anderson or Ruud Poore. Radio 192 is however attempting to catch the empty and unused 1332 AM. In addition the station applied for two FM frequencies. This will not happen as the closed package is awarded to the Arrow organisation. Radio 192 planned to broadcast a Top 10,000 (JH) in the December month. It would be the first time ever a Top 10,000 was going to be broadcasted. Plans were to start Sunday afternoon November 30th ending on Wednesday December 31st. 32 Days 24 hours a day...the list was put together from British, American & Dutch lists with bestsellers between 1954 and 1990. Almost 40 years of popular music history. Several guest presenters were invited to join the 192 presentation team. Radio 192's hope is to get a mention in the World Guinness Book of Records. The disannouncement came on Monday December 1st. Radio 192 was forced to abandon its attempt to broadcast the top 10,000 singles of all time due to a computer crash. The attempt will now go ahead at some future date, yet to be decided.

Many lists on Dutch radio in December

Since a few years it is a tradition on Dutch radio: several free-commercial stations broadcast the choice of their listeners in the form of a Top.... Best known list is the Top 2000 aired by national MOR Radio 2. This list is aired non-stop between Racing Day and December 31st at 24.00 hours. So for almost 600,000 listeners have been voting. This year's edition is already the 5th since 1999 and still the Top 2000 is getting more popular every year. For more information surf to: < top2000.comtop.nl >.

Radio Veronica FM airs on All Time Top 1000 starting December 25th. This is also a list put together by the station's listeners. For more info check the Veronica FM website at: < www.veronicafm.nl >.

Arrow Classic Rock will air the All Time Rock 500 in the days prior to X-Mas. Many listeners outside The Netherlands will be able to tune in as the powerful 675 kHz outlet. Check at: < www.arrow.nl >.

DRM test

On August 22nd the very first test with DRM was done in the Netherlands on 1296 AM on the Radio10 FM frequency. Between 13.00 and 15.00 hours the new signal, which brings in a brighter signal at AM, was transmitted.

Farewell to Kaatwijk

Dutch telecommunications concerns KPN has almost completed dismantling the former transmitting station of Scheveningen Radio at Kaatwijk. The 400 hectare site will shortly be sold to a governmental organisation that manages the natural heritage in the Netherlands, producing millions of euros of revenue for KPN, which has been maintaining the site since the closure of Scheveningen Radio. KPN had originally hoped to sell it to the group behind Delta 171, an ill-fated attempt to build a high power longwave station that would broadcast music programmes to the UK. It would have had a 2 Megawatt transmitter and four 300 metre high masts. But objections to the plan at local and national level prevented the sale from going ahead. It's thought that the buildings may be turned into a museum.

Easy FM

A few years ago FR5 Newsletter already reported about plans of Dutch top deputy Ferry Maat to start a new Easy-listening station Easy FM. Plans were put on ice due to a lack of backers. The introduction of digital radio however stirred something up in it. In an interview with the Dutch daily De Telegraaf Ferry showed his dissatisfaction with the Dutch radio landscape. Many stations claim their output at the 15029 age group, 40+ persons are almost completely ignored. Serving that age group with easy listening from 60s & 70s, Ferry tries to fill a gap in the market.

Frisian radio pirates want to go legal

A group of ex-pirate radio operators in the province of Friesland here in the Netherlands have told the newspaper *Fransche Dagblad* that they want to set up a radio station that will fulfil the wishes of the Dutch parliament and get pirate radio off the air. Radio Piraat would broadcast music programmes with a strong emphasis on regional and local artists between 7am and 7pm, and the other 12 hours of airtime would be

made available to existing pirate radio operators so they can broadcast legally. The leader of the group is Jos van der Linden, a former pirate who is now involved in a legal local radio station in Leeuwarden along with ten other operators. Van der Linden and these others had 10,000 euro for a licence earlier this year, but the licence was awarded to another broadcaster which bid six times as much. Van der Linden believes that money, and not programme content, influenced the decision. He has sent a written appeal against the decision to the Radiocommunications Agency, and is waiting for the Agency's response.

Dutch pirate: € 34,000 penalty?

The Arnhem-based FM pirate Radio Bellamy will have to pay a € 34,000 penalty if broadcasts are continued. The penalty was imposed by the Dutch Telecom Agency. This government-controlled body is responsible for tracking down illegal radio stations (amongst other duties). It was announced that as from March 12th onwards the Telecom Agency (part of the Ministry of Trade and Industry) would be starting a project called Etherlids. The project aims at wiping out the great number of illegal stations within the Netherlands, however, in particular in the North-East part of the country. In the mean time the project is running for already 8 months in which a great number of mainly FM pirates have been tracked down and raided. Radio Bellamy cannot pay € 34,000 and is forced to cease broadcasting after 17 years. Also Radio Contact from Arnhem has left the airwaves unwillingly. They were forced with a € 64,9000 penalty if broadcasts wouldn't stop. Hundreds of fans went on the streets protesting against the closure of their favourite station.

Radio Jackie returns to London airwaves

Do you like stories with happy endings? Yes? Dreams do come true: just ask Tony Collis. 18 years ago he was forced to shut down the much loved pirate radio station Radio Jackie, which had been the pride of South West London for 15 years. A decade later, his hopes of bringing back Radio Jackie as a legal broadcaster were dashed when another applicant was awarded the community radio licence for the area. But earlier this year the Radio Authority gave its consent for Radio Jackie Ltd to take over financially struggling Thames Radio. Collis has bought the station for the token amount of £1, and has inherited its debts. But more significantly, Radio Jackie is back!

Radio Jackie was arguably the best of the many UK "land based pirates" of the 1970's and early 1980's. These stations had grown up out of frustration at the closure of the offshore broadcasters in 1967, and their replacement with the BBC's Radio 1. Although licenced commercial broadcasting started in London in 1973, the choice of stations was limited, and many young people preferred the sound of the unlicensed stations which more closely resembled the offshore broadcasters. The knowledge that they were not approved by the authorities only added to their appeal. The format of Radio Jackie was top 40 hits mixed with "golden oldies", plus local news and community information. Radio Jackie started life as a weekly half hour programme on the Helen Network. When that service closed in April 1969, Radio Jackie took over the frequency of 1525kHz, and began broadcasts from its own transmitter. At first, it broadcasted from a fixed location, but since it was unlicensed the team decided to start using a mobile transmitter which changed its location each week to minimise the risk of being raided by the authorities. The power was only 50 watts, but the technical experts on the team always managed to set up a good antenna which made the signal sound much stronger.

Within a short while Radio Jackie was on air every Sunday giving a growing band of listeners their first taste of truly local radio. On the 7th March 1972 a cassette recording of Radio Jackie was played in Parliament during the committee stage of the Sound Broadcasting Bill, as an example of what local radio could be like. Radio Jackie was technically a pirate station, but was more professional and more popular in its listening area than some of the big stations. The only reason it didn't get the SW London community licence originally was bloody-mindedness on the part of the Radio Authority, which was no doubt leaned on not to be seen to reward illegal broadcasting. As new London radio stations were licenced in the early twenties Radio Jackie stayed true to the ideal of local radio based in South West London. Community events and charity fund raising were a key part of the station's output. Sutton Eye Hospital, Queen Mary's Hospital for Children in Camberton and the Royal Marsden Hospital were all beneficiaries of Radio Jackie on-air fundraising efforts. For the

first time local businesses were able to advertise on the radio to a relevant audience in a cost-effective way.

The frequency changed several times, but the station settled on 1331kHz, moving to 1332kHz when the new 1978 European frequency plan took effect. FM transmissions were also introduced, with Saturday night transmissions from February 1971 on 94.4 FM. Later Radio Jackie joined in a cooperative venture known as the London Transmitter of Independent Radio, which broadcast four nights a week. Programming was very community-oriented, and during its existence Radio Jackie was able to raise a lot of money for charity. In 1983 Radio Jackie launched a full 24 hour a day service without harassment from the authorities. It could do this because it had discovered a loophole in the Wireless Telegraphy Act. By this time, the station was operating on 1323 or 1332 kHz with a power of 1KW. Several locations in the county of Surrey were used. A Radio Jackie Shop opened in Morden, the studios were in Worcester Park, and the transmitter was in North Cheam. A fourth location in Sutton housed the office of station owner Tony Collis, and a production studio for commercials. Today the name of the station lives on in the form of the cab company Radio Jackie Cars. Radio Jackie was VAT registered and listed in the phone book. Full time staff were employed to work from Radio Jackie's office and shop. Kingston and Sutton Councils passed motions supporting Radio Jackie's bid to be licenced to serve South West London. In 1984 a petition, calling for the station to be given a licence, was signed by over 55,000 people and supported by many local councillors and the MP for Mitcham and Morden. Independent surveys at the time showed that Radio Jackie was one of the most popular radio stations in South West London. As the station's campaign for a radio licence grew so the regional and national media took notice. BBC tv, Channel 4 and ITV all covered the campaign for the station to be awarded a licence to serve South West London.

Sadly Radio Jackie was forced to close in February 1985 following a series of much publicised raids by the radio regulatory authorities. Hundreds of people filled the Radio Jackie studios and offices in Worcester Park for the emotional final programme. The station vowed then to continue campaigning for a local radio licence for South West London. However, in 1996, the opportunity arose to apply for a new FM community licence for South West London on 107.8 MHz. Radio Jackie's application set out a very detailed programme plan with a high degree of community service content. However, possibly because the Radio Authority didn't want to be seen as rewarding illegal broadcasting, the licence was awarded to another applicant - Thames Radio. Radio Jackie's hopes of a return to the airwaves of South West London were dashed. So it looked as if Radio Jackie would become simply a piece of British broadcasting history. In 2000, self-declared "anorak" Graff Rogers began putting together an ambitious Radio Jackie memorial site. Geoff said at the time "I can't believe that no one has yet set up a site which brings together all the various memories, stories, legends, photographs and sounds that made up one the best known (or possibly even the best known!) land-based pirate radio station in the world. Well, the people who ran Thames Radio ran it into the ground, attracted virtually no listeners, and deserved what they got - absolutely nothing. Their subsequent misfortunes turned out to be an opportunity for Radio Jackie to prove the 1996 licence decision wrong. Thames 107.8 was put up for sale in February 2003 and the original management team behind Radio Jackie re-formed to purchase the last-minute station. Since the purchase of Thames in March the station's output has been completely revamped to include live local presentation around the clock and the inclusion of local news every hour. In July the station moved to new studios in Tolworth. On Sunday 19th October 2003 the station officially re-launched as Radio Jackie - The Sound of South West London. At 12 noon For the first time since February 4th 1985 listeners across South West London and North Surrey will be able to hear Radio Jackie - The Sound of South West London. The difference is that the station has finally achieved its ambition of having a licence to broadcast!

If you want to find the real spirit of radio in London, don't go to Broadcasting House, go to 110 Tolworth Broadway! The Radio Jackie Web site can be found via < www.radiojackie.com >. That site links you to a good quality live audio stream!

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